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CLAIMS

1. Catalyst components for the polymerization of olefins comprising Mg, Ti, Cl, OR groups, where R is a C1-C10 alkyl group optionally containing heteroatoms, and an ether having two or more ether groups, characterized by the fact that the Mg/Ti weight ratio is lower than 3, the Cl/Ti weight ratio is from 1.5 to 6, the OR/Ti weight ratio is from 0.5 to 3.5 and at least 50% of the titanium atoms is in a valence state lower than 4.

2. The catalyst component according to claim 1 in which the ether having at least two ether groups is selected among 1,3 diethers of the formula (I):

$$\begin{array}{c|c}
R^{II} & R^{III} \\
R^{I} & OR^{VI} \\
R^{IV} & R^{V}
\end{array}$$
(I)

wherein R, R^I, R^{II}, R^{III}, R^{IV} and R^V equal or different to each other, are hydrogen or hydrocarbon radicals having from 1 to 18 carbon atoms, and R^{VI} and R^{VII}, equal or different from each other, have the same meaning of R-R^V except that they cannot be hydrogen; one or more of the R-R^{VII} groups can be linked to form a cycle.

- 3. The catalyst component according to claim 2 in which R^{VI} and R^{VII} are selected from C_1 - C_4 alkyl radicals.
- 4. The catalyst component according to claim 2 in which the radicals R^{II}-R^V are hydrogen the radicals R^{VI} and R^{VII} are C₁-C₄ alkyl radicals and the radicals R and R^I, same or different to each other, are C₁-C₁₈ alike groups, C₃-C₁₈ cycloalkyl groups, C₆-C₁₈ aryl groups, or C₇-C₁₈ alkylaryl or arylalkyl groups.
- 5. The catalyst component according to claim 4 in which R and R^I are C1-C10 linear or branched alkyls.
- 6. The catalyst component according to claim 1 in which the ether having at least two ether groups is a 1,2 diether.
- 7. The catalyst component according to claim 1 in which the Mg/Ti weight ratio is lower than 2, the Cl/Ti weight ratio is from 2 to 5.5, the OR/Ti weight ratio is from 0.7 to 3.
- 8. The catalyst component according to claim 1 in which at least 60% of the titanium atoms is in a valence state lower than 4.

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9. The catalyst component according to claim 7 in which the Mg/Ti weight ratio is lower than 1.5, the Cl/Ti weight ratio is from 2.5 to 5, the OR/Ti weight ratio is from 0.7 to 2.5.

- 10. The catalyst component according to claim 8 in which at least 70% of the titanium atoms is in a valence state lower than 4.
- 11. Catalyst for the polymerization of olefins obtained by contacting (i) a catalyst component comprising Mg, Ti, Cl, OR groups, where R is a C1-C10 alkyl group optionally containing heteroatoms, and an ether having two or more ether groups, characterized by the fact that the Mg/Ti weight ratio is lower than 3 from 2 to 6.5 the Cl/Ti weight ratio is from 1.5 to 6, the OR/Ti weight ratio is from 0.5 to 3.5 and at least 50% of the titanium atoms is in a valence state lower than 4, with (b) an organoaluminum compound.
- 12. The catalyst according to claim 11 in which the organoaluminum compound is selected from trialkyl aluminum compounds.
- 13. The catalyst according to claim 11 in which the organoaluminum compound is selected from mixtures of trialkylaluminum's with alkylaluminum halides.
- 14. The catalyst according to claim 13 in which the alkylaluminum halide is selected among diethylaluminum chloride, diisobutylalumunum chloride, Al-sesquichloride and dimethylaluminum chloride.
- 15. Process for the (co)polymerization of olefins CH₂=CHR, where R is H or a C1-C12 hydrocarbon group, carried out in the presence of the catalyst according to anyone of the claims 11-14.
- 16. Process according to claim 15 in which the olefins copolymerized are ethylene and one or more alpha-olefins having from 3 to 12 carbon atoms.